GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:346
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Empowerment of TRAI
Charitra Shri Ram

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that though Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has powers to regulate and monitor rates, quality and other parameters, it does not enjoy power to impose penalties for deficient service unlike global regulators of telecom sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether suggestions have been received from various quarters to empower TRAI with such powers in the interest of consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.
STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.346 FOR 23rd DECEMBER, 2015 REGARDING "EMPOWERMENT OF TRAI".

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), established under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997) has been entrusted with discharge of certain functions, inter alia, to regulate the telecommunication services; to ensure compliance of terms and conditions of license; lay-down the standards of quality of service to be provided by the service providers so as to protect the interest of the consumers of the telecommunication service; to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector. Under Section 29 of the TRAI Act, the Authority has been given power for imposing penalty for contravention of its directions, which stipulates that if a person violates directions of the Authority, such person shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and in case of second or subsequent offence with fine which may extend two lakh rupees and in the case of continuing contravention with additional fine which may extend to two lakh rupees for every day during which the default continues.

(c) & (d) Yes Madam. Based on suggestions received from various quarters including TRAI, Department is working on Comprehensive legislative proposal to review and harmonise the legal frame work.